THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) in order to reach justice to the people, the Government has taken various steps to improve the productivity and efficiency of the judiciary which include periodically monitoring the pendency position in courts, grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, timely filling up the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of disputes resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc. The Government has also set up Fast Track Courts in States and has extended their term upto 31.03.2010 for clearing pending cases at District level.

(c) The sustantive and Procedural Laws applied by the Judicial Courts and the Quasi-Judicial Authorities in the country are non-discriminatory. However, these laws are reviewed from time to time and necessary amendments there-to are made accordingly.

Persons belonging to minority community in judiciary

†1393. SHRI RAJIV SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a headcount of the persons belonging to the minority community at each and every of the judiciary in the country has been done as per the directions of the Prime Minister's Office;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the castes of the persons belonging to the minority community for which headcount has been done; and

(d) whether this headcount has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No directions have been received from the Prime Minister's Office in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.